

REMARKS

This response is submitted in reply to the Office Action dated June 7, 2004. Claims 1-20 are pending the patent application. Claims 1, 7, 8 and 19 have been amended. No new matter has been added by any of the amendments made herein. Claims 1-20 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b). Applicants respectfully submit, for the reasons set forth below, that the rejections have been overcome or are improper. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration of the patentability of claims 1-20.

Claims 1-20 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,754,654 to Hiroya et al. ("*Hiroya*"). Applicants respectfully submit that *Hiroya* does not disclose all of the elements of Claims 1-20 for the reasons provided below.

The claimed invention is directed to an information distribution system and information management method that simplifies the distribution and management of right information or information which indicates who has a right to the information, such as a person who has a right to airline ticket information which that person purchased from an airline. In one embodiment, the claimed invention is directed to a right-information distribution method, including the steps of generating right information and verification information for authenticating the validity of a portable electronic device when the right information is stored in the portable electronic device. The next step includes generating a right code by encrypting the right information and the verification information where the right code is provided to a user offline. The method then includes enabling the user to input the offline-provided right code into the portable electronic device and decrypting the right code inputted into the portable electronic device and using the verification information to authenticate the right information based on the decrypted right code. The next step includes storing the authenticated right information in the portable electronic device. The claimed invention therefore simplifies the distribution and management of information such as ticket information by eliminating the need to have a computer or other device for accessing information online, such as electronic tickets, and also securely provides right information to the user using a suitable portable electronic device.

On the contrary, *Hiroya* is directed to an electronic ticket vending system, including an electronic ticket vending and refunding device operated by ticket publisher. The system includes a terminal device such as a computer having a data input device, a data display device, and a data transmission and reception device which are operated by a purchaser. The purchaser also has an

electronic storage device. In this system, the vending and refunding device and the terminal device or computer are connected by communication line, such as a telephone line, where the ticket information is communicated electronically between the vending and refunding device and the terminal device. (See the Abstract; Fig. 1.) Therefore, *Hiroya* is directed to an electronic ticket vending system which uses a communication line such as a telephone line to transfer the information from a seller to a purchaser. *Hiroya* does not disclose, teach or suggest the elements of “generating right information and verification from information for authenticating the validity of a portable electronic device when the right information is stored in the portable electronic device.” *Hiroya* also does not disclose, teach or suggest the steps of generating a right code by encrypting the right information in verification information where the right code is provided to a user offline or enabling the user to input the offline right code to the portable electronic device. As stated in *Hiroya*, *Hiroya* appears to require a terminal such as a computer and a dedicated communication line to transfer the electronic information from the seller to the purchaser. Therefore, *Hiroya* does not disclose, teach or suggest all the elements of Claim 1. Accordingly, Claim 1 and Claims 2-6, which depend from Claim 1, are each patentably distinguished from *Hiroya* and are in condition for allowance.

Claim 7 includes certain similar elements to Claim 1. In particular, Claim 7 includes the elements of generating the right information in verification information for authenticating the validity of the portable electronic device when the right information is stored in the portable electronic device and generating a first right code in providing that right code offline where the method includes enabling the user to input the offline-provided right code into the portable electronic device.

Therefore, for at least the reasons provided above for Claim 1, Claim 7 is patentably distinguished from *Hiroya* and in condition for allowance.

Claim 8 also includes similar elements to Claim 1. Specifically, Claim 8 is directed to a system including encryption means for generating the encrypted information by using a code unique to the portable electronic device to encrypt the information indicating to whom the right belongs to be in an offline-providable form. The system also includes an information providing means for providing a user with the encrypted information so that the encrypted information passes through an offline channel at least once. As described above, *Hiroya* does not disclose, teach or suggest providing information offline where a user inputs the offline provided right code

into the portable electronic device to decrypt the information stored in that device. Accordingly, Claim 8 and Claims 9-13, which depend from Claim 8, are each patentably distinguished from *Hiroya* and are in condition for allowance.

Claim 14 is directed to an information management method including certain similar elements to Claim 1. Specifically, Claim 14 includes the steps of generating encrypted information in an offline providable form by using a code unique to the portable electronic device to encrypt the information indicating to whom the right belongs to the information. Claim 14 also includes the step for providing the user with the encrypted information so the encrypted information passes through an offline channel at least once. As described above, *Hiroya* does not disclose, teach or suggest providing a code unique to the portable electronic device to encrypt the information indicating to whom the right belongs and providing the user with the encrypted information so the encrypted information passes through an offline channel at least once. Therefore, for at least the reasons provided above, Claim 14 and Claims 15-20 which depend from Claim 14 are each patentably distinguished from *Hiroya* and are in condition for allowance.

In light of the above, Applicants respectfully submit that Claims 1 through 20 are patentable and non-obvious over the art of record because the cited reference, *Hiroya*, does not disclose, teach or suggest the claimed invention. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request that Claims 1-20 be deemed allowable at this time and that a timely notice of allowance be issued in this case.

No fees are due in this case. If any other fees are due in connect with this application as a whole, the Patent Office is authorized to deduct the fees from Deposit Account No. 02-1818. If such a withdrawal is made, please indicate the Attorney Docket No. (112857-225) on the account statement.

Respectfully submitted,

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